

Announcement of a public meeting and an effort to restore water quality in North Fork and South Fork Pound Rivers in Wise County, Virginia.

PUBLIC MEETING LOCATION: The meeting will be held at the Pound Town Hall, 8422 North River Rd, Pound, Virginia, on Thursday, February 2, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (in case of inclement weather the snow date will be February 9, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce a public meeting on a water quality improvement study by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Mines Minerals and Energy and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the North and South Fork Pound River in Southwest Virginia. Significant changes were made to the draft document; therefore, a final public meeting is being scheduled for February 2, 2010 at 6 PM.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ has been working to identify sources of pollutants affecting the aquatic organisms in the waters of the North and South Fork Pound Rivers. The South Fork Pound River flows along Route 671 and conflues with the North Fork Pound River in the Town of Pound along Bus. 23. The "impaired" stream segments are estimated to total approximately 7.64 miles. The stream is impaired for

failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms.

During the study, the pollutants impairing the aquatic community were identified and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period once the study report is drafted. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, February 2, 2010 to March 2, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available after February 1, 2010 from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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